

invest more in training. That Liberal is finally seeing the light. He is right.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, if we could all get some glimpse of the light from the minister of employment it would be useful.

Yesterday the minister of employment said that he would have an announcement to make in the next day or two with respect to more support for training. Across this country there are people who are in desperate need of training and of increased support. Our concern, however, is that the minister is going to rob Peter to pay Paul.

First, is the minister prepared to make the commitment today that there will be more money for training? Second, will he make it with an added guarantee that this increased money for training will not be at the expense of other support for training in other areas?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member come clean with Canada, stand up and apologize to all those workers that need training?

Because of his actions and those of his party, we were delayed for a year and a half. Who is paying for that delay? Canadian workers who could have been trained over a period of 18 months have been deprived of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

The minister should know that thousands of workers in Canada have decided to take the training option. For the last three weeks they have been waiting for some kind of specific answer from the Minister of Employment and Immigration to know whether the money will be there to allow them to access training programs. Some of them are unable even to sign up at community colleagues because of the no refund policy.

I want to ask minister a very specific question. Is he prepared to announce today that his government has found a way to reallocate money so that fee paper training can be accessed by thousands of workers across this country? Yes or no.

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will not take the 18 months that they devoted to preventing unemployed Canadians

from getting training. I should be able to have an answer within the next few days.

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• (1450)

BANKING

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

In the 1980s, after the big banks' loans to the Third World countries went bust, Canadian consumers ended up paying vastly higher service charges.

In the 1990s, after the big banks' loans to real estate developers like Olympia & York have gone bust, what assurance can the government give that once again the real burden will not fall on Canadian consumers who fear being handed a bill for the bankers' lack of foresight?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have noted those comments and I have been in contact with the Canadian Bankers' Association seeking assurances that that was not the case.

I can tell my hon. colleague that indeed I have been informed by the Canadian Bankers' Association that the impact of the O & Y situation will not reduce their capacity to serve their customers, and particularly their small business customers.

I have also been assured that there is no way in which they would attempt to recoup any of these losses from the small business sector. I think that is most encouraging.

I have also been advised by the Canadian Bankers' Association that it will co-operate fully with the small business financing program and other government programs to ensure the small business sector has the adequate financing it needs, and particularly those small businesses in financial difficulty.

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GRAIN INDUSTRY

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds. It has to do with the stalled grain shipments to Russia.